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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	09/863,120	
	Filing Date	May 22, 2001	
	First Named Inventor	MATSUURA, Masaya	
	Group Art Unit	2621	
	Examiner Name	Johns, Andrew W.	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	5	Attorney Docket Number	72757 [00P287PS-US01]

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form (in duplicate) <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): - Form PTO-1449 - copies of six (6) references - Return Receipt Post Card
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Richard E. Wawrzyniak, Reg. No. 36,048 FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY
Signature	
Date	4/18/03

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on this date: <input type="text" value="April 18, 2003"/>			
Typed or printed name	Pamela M. Stone		
Signature		Date	April 18, 2003

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Matsuura et al.
Application No.: 09/863,120
Filed: May 22, 2001
For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS,
IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD,
RECORDING MEDIUM AND PROGRAM
Group Art Unit: 2621
Examiner: Mei, Xu

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231 on this date.

April 18, 2003
Date

Pamela M. Stone
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

X Under 37 CFR §1.97(b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

X Under 37 CFR §1.97(c) together with either:
X a statement under 37 CFR §1.97(e), or
a fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p)
(after the 37 CFR §1.97(b) time period, but before the mailing date of a final Action, a Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution).

X Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1): The undersigned states that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

In accordance with the duty of disclosure imposed by 37 CFR § 1.56 to inform the Patent Office of all patents, publications, applications and other information known by Applicants or Applicants' representative that may be material to the examination of the

Information Disclosure Statement
U.S. App. No. 09/863,120

subject application, Applicants' representative hereby provides this Information Disclosure Statement that is prepared in accordance with 37 CFR §§ 1.97-1.98 and includes Form PTO-1449 with six (6) references listed as items AA-AF.

Copies of all of the items listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed.

Concise Explanation of Relevance

Items AA -AF listed on the Form PTO-1449 are not in the English language.

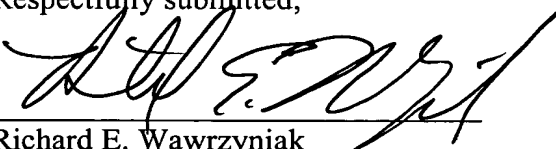
A concise explanation of the relevance of items AA-AD and AF are in the form of a copy of a Japanese "Rejection of the Application" mailed January 21, 2003, issued over the corresponding Japanese Patent Application, that was mailed from a foreign patent office and issued in a counterpart foreign application, which refers to the references. The Japanese "Rejection of the Application" mailed January 21, 2003 is listed as item AE and a copy is included herewith. An English-language translation of portions of the Japanese "Rejection of the Application" mailed January 21, 2003 is also included herewith.

In addition, items AA, AB, AC and AD include an English-language abstract.

It is requested that the information provided herein be made of record in this application.

Dated: 4/18/03

Respectfully submitted,



Richard E. Wawrzyniak
Reg. No. 36,048

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